

## HOWARD COUNTY BRAC TASK FORCE

BRAC BIT: # 70

DATE: 11 March 2010

SUBJECT(S): Upcoming Events and the BRAC Business Initiative (BBI)

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### 1. Upcoming Events:

#### a. BRAC Business Initiative Information/Networking Meeting

- i. Date: 31 March, 2010, 8 AM to 10 AM
- ii. Event: Free, no reservations required
- iii. Location: Other Barn, 5851 Robert Oliver Pl # 2  
Columbia, MD 21045-3728 (410) 730-4610
- iv. Attendees: All who want BRAC information and networking opportunities
- v. Agenda:
  - Doing Business with Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab
  - **Networking extravaganza: New concepts leading to more effective networking with the 450 BBI companies will be discussed and applied.**

#### b. The Howard County Housing Fair

- i. Date: 10 April, 2010, 10 AM to 2 PM.
- ii. Event: Annual and free; designed to provide full service support to prospective home buyers. The Public and employees from the three BRAC organizations are invited.
- iii. Location: Long Reach High School, 6101 Old Dobbin Lane Columbia, MD
- iv. Attendees: Last year over 600 potential home buyers and 40 exhibitors attended. If you would like to be a vendor, visit [www.ComeHomeToHowardCounty.org](http://www.ComeHomeToHowardCounty.org)
- v. Agenda:
  - Information about renting, buying, fixing up a home and more
  - Education programs, to include financial, for first time home buyers
  - Guided bus tours of new housing developments in Howard County
  - Please contact Christopher Julien at the Howard County Dept of Housing at (410) 313-6343 or [cjulien@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:cjulien@howardcountymd.gov) if you need any additional information.

### 2. Discussion:

#### a. BRAC Business Initiative (BBI):

- i. BBI Focus: To identify and document the defense contracting “terrain” in the Fort Meade Region. We want to take the anecdotal information that is out there and transform it into factual and actionable information for small and minority businesses. Additionally, we have developed a 450 Partner organization focused totally on networking. We expect this organization to grow to 500 by the end of March. To become a BBI Partner, send email to [kmenser@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:kmenser@howardcountymd.gov)
- ii. BBI Volunteerism: This week we had two great companies come forward to help us improve our BBI organizational structure, continuity and performance measurement processes. Read, more effective organization! Additionally, we have been working with a communication’s company to upgrade our data base. In the past, I have asked for volunteers with expertise and a successful history in government contracting. If that is you and you have an interest, please send me an email. If this is the second time you will have sent an email, my apologies, but please send again. All we need is your brain for less than 2 hours a week. Body is not required!
- iii. BBI Data Collection: To our 450 partner companies, expect us to survey you on a periodic basis on bad times, best practices and your great ideas. And you thought those doughnut holes at the monthly updates were free! To all of our constituents, anytime you have a criticism and/or a better idea on how to help, email me!